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Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph commencing on page 10, line 2 with the following amended paragraph:

--In operation and with reference to Figure [[2]] 1, it will be appreciated that the modular core assembly 104 is intended to be a separate assembly from the muffler housing 101 with its integrally assembled exhaust entry pipe 102 and modular core assembly retainer 103. Housing 101 has a circumferential crimp 122 formed in the housing 101 which allows an abutment by the backing plate 113 against the internal surface of the circumferential crimp 122 to thereby correctly position the modular core assembly 104 within the housing 101 during the assembly operation.--

Replace the paragraph commencing on page 10, line 11 and bridging over to page 11, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--The modular core assembly 104 is ordinarily assembled remotely from the housing 101 and will comprise the backing plate 113, the perforated pipes 110, 111, the seal 120 and the tailpipe [[121]] 131 and the male pipe 112. The assembly 104 will be inserted into the opening of the housing 101 with the alignment and retention member 114 being generally aligned with the assembly retainer 103 connected to the housing 101 and with the male female pipe 112 being generally aligned with the exhaust entry pipe 102. As the modular core assembly 104 is moved leftwardly and into the housing 101, the male pipe 112 will move inwardly on exhaust entry pipe 102 and retention member 114 will likewise move into engagement with assembly retainer 103.--

Replace the paragraph commencing at page 11, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

--The user will then rotate extending tail pipe

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[[121]] 131 within the backing plate 113 and seal 120 which tail pipe 121 rotates perforated member 111. This allows engagement between the threaded retention member 114 and the assembly retainer 103 and as rotation of the tailpipe [[121]] 131 continues, the assembly 104 will move leftwardly under the tightening sequence until the backing plate 113 comes into firm contact with circumferential crimp [[113]] 122. The assembly is then complete.--

Replace the paragraph commencing at page 11, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

--If it is intended to remove the assembly 104 for reasons for replacement, repair or otherwise, the tailpipe [[121]] 131 may again be rotated in an opposite direction either manually or with an appropriate tool and the sequence is reversed. That is, the threaded connection between the member 114 and the retainer 103 will force the assembly 104 rightwardly until the threaded engagement is disconnected whereupon the assembly 104 is manually removed from the housing 101.--

Replace the paragraph commencing at page 14, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

--A further embodiment of the invention is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. In this embodiment, a cartridge generally illustrated at 500 is illustrated in partially assembled condition with respect to muffler casing 501. The cartridge 500 is intended to be sealed; that is, the cartridge 500 has a gas tight enclosure 502 which houses the filter elements [[502]] 503 and the perforated member 504 previously illustrated in Figure 2.

Replace the paragraph commencing at page 18, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--Following installation of the cartridge 600 into

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casing 620, exhaust from the engine (not illustrated) leaves pipe 624 and enters the cartridge 600. The exhaust gas flow is illustrated by the arrows shown in Figures 6 and 7 with the exhaust being exposed to the plasma reactor electrodes and dielectric [[613]] 601 and, thereafter, to any catalyst or adsorbent material 612. The treated exhaust then departs the cartridge 600 and enters pipe 642 of end cap 610 where it passes to the tail pipe or exhaust system of the vehicle or vessel into which it is installed.--